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## SAINT JOSEPH.



A beautiful custom now practiced by many of the faithful consists in dedicating each month of the year to some special devotion—twelve spiritual bouquets as it were to be offered to the throne of grace. Thus, May is the month of Mary, June of the Sacred Heart, October of the Rosary, November of the Holy Souls, and the month of March we sanctify in a special manner by honoring St. Joseph.

Of all the sanctities in the Church, St. Joseph's is most concealed from view. The faint glimmer of light that comes to us through the chinks in the Gospel indicate a most divine and at the same time a most hidden life. Standing on the threshold of the new dispensation, scarcely seeming to be a part of it, he is more like the link binding the holy Patriarchs of the old to the saints of the new law. The last of the Patriarchs, he is the noblest certainly of them all. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob have melted from the earth, but their resplendent virtues remain united and intensified in the person of Joseph, Patriarch of Nazareth. The Patriarchs who preceded him received abundantly it is true of the infinite charity of God, while it would seem that it is peculi-

arly from God's justice that the graces of Joseph superabound.

Who does not know the beautiful munificence of gratitude among the sons of men? Oh what then must gratitude be like in God? What the sanctification of Joseph? The eminence of his interior beauty? Our Lord we may say put himself under obligations to St. Joseph as well as in subordination to him; for St. Joseph's position in that holy trinity of persons comprising the Holy Family bore a strange resemblance to that of the Father in the Eternal Trinity.

Called then to assume this most singular relationship it was eminently appropriate that a peculiar outpouring of grace should be lavished upon him in order to fit him for the equally peculiar duties of this extraordinary position. We know that all vessels of election designated in the eternal counsels for special missions are specially fitted by divine grace for the fulfillment of their mission. Must we not then believe that he who enjoyed the unique prerogative of foster-father of the Son of God, must also have been endowed with singular and pre-eminent gifts of grace far in excess and surpassing in strength and beauty those of any other saint except the Blessed Mother of God.

The Creator seems to be dependent on the creature. Our Lord places himself under obligations to St. Joseph. His fair and spotless soul was the cloister built around Mary's innocence. If she was the Mystical Rose, He was as the sturdy oak ever on the windward